**Gaius Iulius Caesar - Commentarii De Bello Gallico - Liber Primus - Capita XIII-XIV - Anglice**

**XIII**. After the battle was complete, Caesar focused on building a bridge over the Arar, so to pursue the remaining forces of the Helvetians, and so he led his army across it. The Helvetians, once alarmed by his sudden arrival, sent ambassadors to him when they realized that Caesar built that bridge in one day, which had taken them nearly 20 days to complete. Divico was the head of this envoy, who was the leader of the Helvetians in the war with Cassianus. He entreated with Caesar thus: if the Roman people would make peace with the Helvetians, they would go into a territory and remain there wherever Caesar decided and wanted, but if they continue to purse war, the ancient bravery of the Helvetians and the old disaster of the Roman people should be remembered. He said further that, because he attacked just one tribe unexpectedly, when they who has crossed the river were not able to get help from their own, Caesar should not attribute too much to his own courage and scoff at the Helvetians themselves, due to the circumstances at hand. He stated that they had learned from their fathers and ancestors, so that they should fight with virtue rather than trickery or to do battle with treachery. Wherefore, Caesar should not engage in battle, lest this place where they had halted would earn a name from the disaster of the Roman people and the slaughter of its army, or hand down this memory.

**XIV.** To all this, Caesar thus responded: on this matter, for his part he had less hesitation, since those events, which the Helvetian ambassadors remembered, he also held in his memory, and on this matter he also considered more seriously where things had happened undeservedly to the Roman people, for if the Roman people had been conscious of any fault, it would be easy to be on their guard, but in this matter they were deceived, because they did not realize that there was a crime whereby they should be afraid, nor did they think that they should have been fearful without reason. But even if he wished to forget an old crime, would he forget even recent injustices, since they had attempted the journey by force through the province, even when he was unwilling? Or would be put away the memory of recent injustices to his allies—that they had harassed the Haedui, the Allobroges, and the Ambari? Because they boasted so insolently on account of their victory, and because they were astonished that they committed their crimes with impunity for so long, it came to the same point. For the immortal gods are accustomed to allow long-lasting impunity and favorable situations to men in the meanwhile, whereby more seriously those men, whom the gods wish to avenge their sins, suffer from change of circumstances. Such as it is then, if hostages were still given by them to Caesar, so that he might be assured that they would do what they had promised previously, and if they make amends to the Haedui from their injustices, and to the Allobroges as well, then he would make peace with them. Divico responded that the Helvetii are taught by their ancestors to receive hostages; they are not accustomed to give them. He also said that the Roman people would be witness to this fact. Thus said, he departed.